



Press Release

Public Affairs Section

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U.S. Embassy Honors Maria Elena Moyano With English Study Program for Twenty Villa El Salvador Youth

LIMA, MAY 9, 2012 – U.S. Ambassador to Peru Rose M. Likins participated today in the launch of a U.S. Embassy-funded English language study program for twenty youth from Villa El Salvador. The María Elena Moyano Access Program honors the memory of the district's courageous deputy mayor, assassinated 20 years ago by the Shining Path for unwavering dedication to her principles: popular participation in the struggle to build a democratic Peru on the foundation of peace and justice for all. The ceremony took place at the Universidad Autónoma del Perú in Villa El Salvador where the English classes are being held. In the audience were the 20 new scholars, their parents, university officials, and Martha Moyano, sister of the slain activist.

“Investing in the education of the youth of Villa El Salvador is a fitting way to honor the work and memory of María Elena Moyano,” Ambassador Likins said in her remarks. The Ambassador also spoke about the importance of learning English to help open doors for Peru's youth in education and global business opportunities.

The twenty Access students were selected from three Villa El Salvador schools and began their two-year English program in April. The Access English Language Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and provides English language learning opportunities for gifted youth who lack the means to pursue their studies. Access scholarships have helped thousands of promising youth in more than 50 countries around the world. Peru's 20 new Access scholars from Villa El Salvador join 300 other Peruvian Access scholars throughout the country. The value of the two-year María Elena Moyano Access Program for 20 students is \$30,000.

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